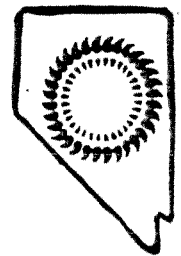


NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

Office of the State Climatologist

Offices: 226 and 322
Mackay Science
(702) 784-1723

John W. James
State Climatologist
Mackay Science Hall
University of Nevada-Reno
Reno, Nevada 89557



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STATE PUBLICATIONS

Even though all eyes are focused on the wet conditions of the first half of February 1998 in Western Nevada, January will go down as a generally mild month over most of the State. In fact, Reno AP averaged 5.3 degrees above normal for a tie with the fifth warmest first month since records began 110 years ago. It is interesting to note that three of the last six warmest January's have occurred in the last ten years! (Urban Heating?, Global Warming?) The 38.2 degree 1998 average was 2.1 degrees cooler than the warmest January in both 1953 and 1986.

With all the warmth there should be at least some near record high readings. Not so this year. The mercury could only rise into the low 70's at several Southern Nevada locations, not even close to the State record 84° in 1931 at Logandale. On the flip side there were only a few below zero readings, and those were far from the State record of -50° at San Jacinto in 1937. In January 1998 at the Prunty Ranch near Charleston the temperature fell to "only" -16°, with -8° at Reese River, -5 at Boies Ranch and San Jacinto, -4 at Middlegate, and as measured by Tom Popps at the Montgomery Pass Casino-Hotel.

Precipitation was near or a little above normal at most locations, with the greatest amounts falling in the West. For example, more than 4" fell at Glenbrook (4.38), Daggett Pass (4.39) and at Incline (5.28) in the Tahoe Basin, and at a few other sites along the East Slope Sierra Nevada watersheds. This was in great contrast to none at Smokey Valley, Goldpoint and Boulder Beach.

Snowpack for January was topped by 30" at Glenbrook, 22" at Geiger Summit, and 21" at Charleston.

A significant weather occurrence was recorded at Laughlin, with 2.44" of rain falling in one day, just short of the one-day record (2.50") set in August 1986. Official records began in 1983.

At month's end Water Year precipitation (Oct. 1, 1997 – Jan. 31, 1998) ranged from 80-85% of normal in the Tahoe-Truckee region and 60-65% in the Carson and Walker watersheds to only 30-35% of normal in parts of Southern Nevada, and in the Fallon-Lahonton and Wabuska Areas of the Northwest. The wettest area is near Goldfield with 1½ times normal, and in the East where Great Basin N.P. and Pioche had 1¼ times the Water Year normal. The Humboldt River Area was only a little below normal by January 31st, with the Owyhee River Area at only about ¾ of normal. As this is being written (mid-Feb.) most areas of the Silverstate are seeing a significant increase in these Water Year totals vs. normals.

NOTE:

Record Highs and Lows for February and March?

February High	93°	Laughlin in 1986
February Low	-42°	Wildhorse Reservoir in 1996
March High	101°	Rioville in 1903
March Low	-33°	Diamond Valley in 1969

John W. James
State Climatologist